

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A split-type vulcanizing mold comprising:
 - a lower side mold;
 - an upper side mold capable of approaching and parting from the lower side mold;
 - a segment mold ring comprising a plurality of segments arc-like in shape, capable of moving in a radial direction thereof, and coming into elose contact with the upper side mold and the lower side mold upon the segments moving toward the radially inner side;
 - an outer ring provided on the radially outer side of the segment mold ring, so as to be movable in the axial direction thereof, for causing the segment mold ring to move radially;
 - a bolster plate for causing the outer ring to move in the axial direction thereof through a spacer ring; and
 - urging members inserted between the spacer ring and the outer ring and having an urging force substantially equivalent to a clamping force of the mold at the time of vulcanization, wherein said spacer ring is slidably installed on a top surface of the outer ring through said urging members.
2. (original): The split-type vulcanizing mold according to Claim 1, wherein the urging members are provided with a predetermined pre-load.
3. (new): The split-type vulcanizing mold according to claim 1, wherein said urging members are set to provide proper clamping force when a deflection of the urging members is approximately half of the maximum deflection thereof.
4. (new): The split-type vulcanizing mold according to claim 2, wherein said urging members are set to provide proper clamping force when a deflection of the urging members is approximately half of the maximum deflection thereof.